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*by*  
*Mattie Kilborn Webster for*  
*The Two Hundredth Anniversary*  
*of the*  
*Town of Merrimack NH*  
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EPISODE 15 - Presented by Marguerite Henderson, Librarian

LIBRARY

1798-1850 - A Social Library was established in 1798. Another in 1850 or a little later. The books of these two ventures were given to McGaw for a Library.

1892 - In March 1892, the present Library became a reality, through the efforts of public-minded citizens. At the Town Meeting that year they voted to accept from the State \$100 worth of books for a Library. Rev. E.A. Keep, Henry Harris and Dr. W.W. Pillsbury were chosen Trustees. By gift and purchase the Library opened with 283 volumes. The Rev. E.A. Keep was Librarian. He boarded with William McIves who lived in a large brick house later burned. This house stood on or near the spot where McKeown's new house is located.

Mr. Keep leaving town, the books were taken to the home of Dr. Davis where Josiah Henderson now lives. They were again moved to the home of Emma Cross. Miss Cross had moved here from Manchester. She was unusually endowed by nature as well as experience for the part given her to play. Naturally intelligent, well informed with a varied and wide reaching experience; with a deep understanding and sympathetic interest in people particularly children; she served as Librarian 31 years. Mrs. Marguerite Henderson, her successor appointed, when the Library outgrew its quarters, the books were kept in a building we remember as "The Birds Nest" (Moulton's Store). Later when this building was sold, the lesser-used books were stored, the others returned to the home of Miss Cross.

The Lowell Memorial Library was built in 1924 by the two daughters of the late Mr. and Mrs. Levi F. Lowell and was presented to the Town and dedicated March 21, 1925. It was given in memory of their parents.

The Library has about 10,000 books and historical collection of town material. It has the Town reports (in bound form) from 1846 to the present time (these were a gift from Cora and Francis Bean). The Library is open at specific times for reading and study by children and adults; and also for home circulation, all free to the Town people, the only reservation being that the books are carefully used and promptly returned.